

The China Mail.

Established February, 1845.

Vol. XXI. No. 6719.

號六月二年五十八百八千一英

HONGKONG, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1885.

日二十月二十年申甲

PRICE, \$2 PER MONTH.

AGENTS FOR THE CHINA MAIL.

LONDON.—F. ALGAR, 11 & 12, Cornhill.
or Lane, Lombard Street, E. C. GOSWELL
STREET & Co., 30, Pall Mall, Gordon
& GORRIE, Ludgate Circus, E. C. BATES
HENRY & Co., 37, Wallbrook, E. C.
SAMUEL DRAGON & Co., 130 & 134,
Leadenhall Street.
PARIS AND EUROPE.—GARNIER &
PICHON, 29, Rue Lafayette, Paris.
NEW YORK.—ANDREW WARD, 21, Park
Row.
AUSTRALIA, TASMANIA, AND NEW
ZEALAND.—GORDON & GOTTCH, Mc-
bourne and Sydney.
SAN FRANCISCO and AMERICAN PORTS
generally.—BEAN & BLACK, San Fran-
cisco.
SINGAPORE, STRAITS, &c.—SAYLE &
Co., Square, Singapore. O. HEINERICH
& Co., Malacca.
CHINA.—MORSE, MOSEY & A. DE MELO
& Co., Canton, QUEEN & Co.,
Amoy, WILSON, NICHOLS & Co.,
Fuchow, HEDDER & Co., Shanghai,
LANE, CRAWFORD & Co., and KELLY
& WATSON, Yokohama, LANE, CRAW-
FORD & Co.

Banks.

HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

PAID-UP CAPITAL, \$7,500,000
RESERVE FUND, \$4,400,000
RESERVE FOR EQUALIZATION, \$400,000
OR DIVIDENDS, \$7,500,000
PROFITS, \$7,500,000

COURT OF DIRECTORS.
Chairman—A. P. MURKIN, Esq.
Deputy Chairman—Hon. P. D. SASSON.
O. D. BOWEN, Esq. H. HOPKIN, Esq.
H. L. DALRYMPLE, Esq. W. W. KENNEDY, Esq.
W. H. FORBES, Esq. M. E. SASSON, Esq.
CHIEF MANAGER.
Hongkong, THOMAS JACKSON, Esq.
MANAGER.
Shanghai, EWEN CAMERON, Esq.
LONDON BANKERS.—London and County Bank.

HONGKONG.
INTEREST AND DISCOUNT.
ON Current Deposit Account at the rate
of 2 per cent. per annum on the daily
balance.
For Fixed Deposits—
For 3 months, 3 per cent. per annum.
" 6 " 4 " " " "
" 12 " 5 " " " "

LOCAL BILLS DISCOUNTED.
Credits granted on approved Securities,
and every description of Banking and
Exchange business transacted.
Drafts granted on London, and the
chief Commercial places in Europe, India,
Australia, America, China and Japan.
T. JACKSON,
Chief Manager.
Hongkong, August 25, 1884. 1423

NOTICE.

RULES OF THE HONGKONG SAVINGS' BANK.

- 1.—The business of the above Bank will be conducted by the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, on their premises in Hongkong. Business hours on week-days, 10 to 3; Saturdays, 10 to 1.
 - 2.—The Assets of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation will form a direct security for the repayment of sums deposited in the above Bank.
 - 3.—Sums less than \$1. or more than \$200 at one time will not be received. No depositor may deposit more than \$1,500 in any one year.
 - 4.—Deposits may be on behalf of relations, of trusts, &c., in addition to the depositor's own account.
 - 5.—Persons desirous of saving sums less than a dollar may do so by affixing clean ten-cent stamps to a form to be obtained at the Bank or at the Post Office. When the form is presented with ten clean stamps the depositor will be credited one dollar.
 - 6.—Depositors in the Savings' Bank having \$100 or more at their credit may at their option transfer the same to the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation on fixed deposit for 12 months at 5 per cent. per annum interest.
 - 7.—Deposits may be forwarded from the Port by means of clean Hongkong Postage Stamps of any value.
 - 8.—Interest at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum will be allowed to depositors on their daily balances.
 - 9.—Each Depositor will be supplied gratis with a Pass-Book which must be presented with each payment or withdrawal. Depositors must not make any entries themselves in their Pass-Books but should send them to be written up at least twice a year, about the beginning of January and beginning of July.
 - 10.—Copies containing Pass-Books, Registered Letters containing Stamps or other Remittances, and generally, correspondence as to the business of the Bank will, if marked On Hongkong Savings' Bank Business, be forwarded free of Postage or Registration Fees by the various British Post Offices in Hongkong and China.
 - 11.—Withdrawals may be made on demand, but the personal attendance of the depositor or his duly appointed agent, and the production of his Pass-Book are necessary.
 - 12.—All documents connected with the business of the Savings' Bank are exempt from stamp duty.
- For the
HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION,
T. JACKSON,
Chief Manager.
Hongkong, April 25, 1884. 715

WITH Reference to the above, BUSI-
NESS will be commenced on the
1st May, 1884.
For the
HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION,
T. JACKSON,
Chief Manager.
Hongkong, April 25, 1884. 716

Bank.

THE NEW ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION, LIMITED.

(Incorporated in London on 18th July, 1884,
under the Companies Acts 1862, to 1883.)

LONDON BANKERS:
UNION BANK OF LONDON, LD.
BANK OF SCOTLAND, LONDON.

DATES OF INTEREST ALLOWED ON DE-
POSITS.
At 3 months' notice 3 1/2 per annum.
" 6 " " 4 " " "
" 12 " " 5 " " "

Current Accounts kept on Terms which
may be learnt on application.
H. A. HERBERT,
Manager.
Hongkong, September 15, 1884. 1556

Notice of Firm.

NOTICE.

MR. R. B. DALTON SAYLE was Ad-
mitted a PARTNER in my Business
from the 1st Instant, and the Name or
Style of the Firm in future will be "W. R.
LOXLEY & Co."
W. R. LOXLEY.
Hongkong, January 13, 1885. 70

Intimations.

HONGKONG, CANTON AND MACAO STEAMBOAT COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

THE DIVIDEND at the Rate of 5 PER
CENT. OF \$4.00 PER SHARE, declared
at the Ordinary Half-Yearly Meeting of
Shareholders held this day, will be Payable
at the HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING
CORPORATION on and after TO-MORROW
(THURSDAY), the 6th Instant.
Shareholders are requested to apply at
the Office of the Company for WARRANTS.
By Order of the Board of Directors,
T. ARNOLD,
Secretary.
Hongkong, February 4, 1885. 202

THE CHINA FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

THE Sixteenth Ordinary MEETING
of SHAREHOLDERS in the Company
will be held at the Company's Office,
No. 45, Queen's Road, Victoria, at Three
o'clock in the Afternoon of TUESDAY,
the 24th February instant, for the purpose
of receiving a Statement of Accounts, and
the Report of the Directors for the year
ending 31st December, 1884.
The Transfer BOOKS of the Company
will be CLOSED from the 11th to the 24th
Instant, both days inclusive.
By Order,
JAS. B. COUGHTRIE,
Secretary.
Hongkong, February 4, 1885. 201

HONGKONG AND WHAMPOA DOCK COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

THE Ordinary Yearly MEETING of
SHAREHOLDERS will be held in the
Office of the Company, No. 14,
Praya Central, on TUESDAY, the 24th
February, at 3.30 p.m., for the purpose
of receiving the Report of the Directors, and
a Statement of Accounts to 31st December,
1884.
The Transfer BOOKS of the Company
will be CLOSED from TUESDAY, the 10th,
to TUESDAY, the 24th February, both days
inclusive.
By Order of the Board of Directors,
D. GILLIES,
Secretary.
Hongkong, January 28, 1885. 173

NOTICE.

THE MITSU BISHI MAIL S.S. Co.
having taken over the NAGASAKI
DOCK, SLIP AND ENGINEERING
WORKS, are now prepared to Dock and
REPAIR VESSELS, at moderate terms.
The DOCK is one of the largest and
best in the East, being 431 feet long and
89 feet broad, and having a depth of water
on blocks at spring tides of 27 feet and
near tides 22 feet.
The SHOPS contain Machine-tools of all
descriptions and compound Engines up to
1,600 horse-power. The heaviest-class of
work can be undertaken at the shortest
notice.
Powerful-lifting SHEARS are being
erected.
For further Particulars, apply to
H. J. H. TRIPP,
Agent.
Hongkong, December 18, 1884. 2135

NOTICE.

THE MITSU BISHI MAIL S.S. Co.

THE DOCK is one of the largest and
best in the East, being 431 feet long and
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H. J. H. TRIPP,
Agent.
Hongkong, December 18, 1884. 2135

For Sale.

JUST LANDED.

EX 'GLENLEARN'

OUR NEW MAKE

OF

ENGLISH

BOOTS AND SHOES.

LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.

Hongkong, January 24, 1885. 130

ROBERT LANG & Co.,

Tailors, Hatters, Shirtmakers & General Outfitters,

QUEEN'S ROAD (OPPOSITE HONGKONG HOTEL).

HONGKONG, JANUARY 24, 1885.

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HONGKONG, JANUARY 24, 1885.

Intimations.

HONGKONG ICE COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE Fourth Ordinary Annual MEET-
ING of SHAREHOLDERS will be
held at the Office of the Company, No. 7,
Queen's Road Central, at 12 o'clock, Noon,
on FRIDAY, the 20th February, 1885,
to receive a Statement of Accounts of the
Company to the 31st December, 1884, and the
Report of the General Managers, also to
discuss any matters that may be competently
brought before the Meeting.
The Transfer BOOKS of the Company
will be CLOSED from the 9th to the 20th
Instant, both days inclusive.
JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.,
General Managers.
Hongkong, February 2, 1885. 192

HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

NOTICE is hereby given that the Or-
dinary Yearly MEETING of the
SHAREHOLDERS in this Corporation
will be held at the City Hall, Hongkong,
on SATURDAY, the 28th day of February
current, at 11.30 o'clock a.m., for the
purpose of receiving the Report of the Court
of Directors, together with a Statement of
Accounts to 31st December, 1884.
By Order of the Court of Directors,
T. JACKSON,
Chief Manager.
Hongkong, February 5, 1885. 209

HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

NOTICE is hereby given that the Or-
dinary Yearly MEETING of the
SHAREHOLDERS in this Corporation
will be held at the City Hall, Hongkong,
on SATURDAY, the 28th day of February
current, at 11.30 o'clock a.m., for the
purpose of receiving the Report of the Court
of Directors, together with a Statement of
Accounts to 31st December, 1884.
By Order of the Court of Directors,
T. JACKSON,
Chief Manager.
Hongkong, February 5, 1885. 210

SING KEE & Co.,

SHIP'S COMMODITIES,
STEVEDORES,
&c.

GENERAL STOREKEEPERS,
KEEP ON HAND AND FOR SALE,
all well assorted CHINA'S
STORES, AND COAL OF ALL KINDS.
Shipping supplied at the Shortest Notice
with all kinds of BALLAST and FRESH
Provisions, at moderate charges.
No. 3, POTTINGER STREET,
HONGKONG.
Hongkong, January 16, 1885. 91

VICTORIA HOTEL,

Praya and Queen's Road Central,
Hongkong.

THIS extensive and well-appointed
establishment, situated in one of the
most central and airy positions in the
Colony and commanding a splendid view
of almost the entire harbour and within
the minutes' walk of the principal Gov-
ernment Offices (including the Post
Office), Banks, &c., has recently been
much enlarged and improved, and is now
one of the principal Hotels in the place.
The Rooms are spacious and well con-
tained, and are furnished in a most
comfortable and handsome manner,
suited to the requirements of the Fair
East.
The accommodation and service of every
kind will be found to be of the best de-
scription.
An ample and varied TABLE D'HOTE is
always provided and served in the ap-
pointed, large Dining Hall.
The Hotel also contains handsome and
comfortable reception, Reading, Billiard
and Smoking Rooms.
The Hotel is well adapted for comfort, con-
venience and quick service.
Continental languages are spoken.
MESSRS. DORABEE & HING LEE,
Proprietors.
Hongkong, September 15, 1884. 1550

Intimations.

HONGKONG FLOWER SHOW.

THE THIRTIETH ANNUAL EXHIBI-
TION will be held in the BOTANIC
GARDENS on THURSDAY and FRIDAY,
the 12th and 13th February, 1885.
All Exhibitors must be entered not later
than the 10th Instant; and Plants in Pots
should be sent on the 11th Instant.
Admission—First Day, \$1; Second Day,
20 CENTS.
Tickets for the First Day may be obtained
from MESSRS. LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.
Schedules of Prizes can be obtained from
CHARLES FORD,
Hon. Secretary.
Hongkong, February 2, 1885. 188

Intimations.

THE HONGKONG FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

THE Sixteenth Ordinary Annual MEET-
ING of SHAREHOLDERS in the
above Company will be held at the Office
of the Company, No. 7, Queen's Road, at
12 o'clock, Noon, on SATURDAY, the 28th
February instant, to receive a Statement of
Accounts to the 31st December, 1884, the
Report of the General Managers, and to
elect a Consulting Committee and Auditors.
The Transfer BOOKS of the Company
will be CLOSED from the 15th to the 28th
day of February instant, both days included.
JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.,
General Managers.
Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.
Hongkong, February 5, 1885. 207

Intimations.

Thirteenth Volume of the 'CHINA REVIEW'.

Now Ready.

No. 3.—Vol. XIII.

—OF THE—

'CHINA REVIEW'

CONTAINS—

The Six Great Chancellors of Tsin.

The Ningpo Dialect.

A Sketch of Formosa.

The Life of Koxinga.

Notes of New Books.

Notes and Queries.—

The First King of Corea.

Zinc Mines in Yunnan.

Official Barbarities.

Consumption of Salt.

Silk for the Imperial Household.

Tungusian Tribes.

The Classic of Filial Piety.

The Laos of China.

Precedence.

Kashgaria.

Designation of Buddhist Temples.

Kwangtung v. Canton.

Lochoo.

Chinese Clash.

Finals.

The Term Arsoos.

Boatru and Pathria.

Erasta.

A Chinese rendering for 'Fathom.'

Replies to some Queries and Sugges-
tions.

Books Wanted, Exchanges, &c.

To Contributors.

Hongkong, February 5, 1885.

WILLIAM DOLAN,

SAIL-MAKER & SHIP-CHANDLER,

22, PRAYA CENTRAL.

COTTON DUCKS, HEMP CANVAS,

MANILA ROPE, AMERICAN

SAFETY LIFES, AMERICAN

SAFETY LIFES, AMERICAN

SAFETY LIFES, AMERICAN

SAFETY LIFES,

issued to-day the important provision to the effect that coal is not to be supplied to the same belligerent vessel more than once in three months is also omitted. These are the only important points on which the two notifications differ from each other.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

PASSED CANAL.—Deception, January 15; Sarpedon, January 19; Bellerophon, January 20.

The next **FRONT** Mart, by the M. M. Co.'s steamer *Sagittaria*, left Singapore for Saigon and this port on Wednesday, the 4th inst., at Noon, and may be expected here on or about Wednesday, the 11th inst.

The next **AMERICAN** MAIL, per the P. M. S. S. Co.'s steamer *City of Peking*, left Yokohama on Thursday, the 5th inst., and may be expected here on or about Wednesday next, the 11th inst.

The **S. S. Wingung** left Singapore for this port on the 30th ult.

The **O. S. S. Co.'s** steamer *Agamemnon*, from Liverpool, left Singapore for this port on the 30th ult.

The **Very Rev. Julian Teshon-Woods** will preach in St. Joseph's Church on Sunday morning next, at 9 o'clock.

Mrs. Marsh will leave here for home in the next English mail; and we may add that she will be much missed by all who have had the pleasure of knowing her.

The transport *Bienhoa*, says the *Saigonensis*, has arrived at Saigon, from Tonquin, without passengers, and will shortly leave for France, with 258 Asiatic convicts, who are to be transported to the Colony of Guiana.

We have received from Messrs G. Kolff & Co., of Batavia, a very useful catalogue of books published by the Government of Netherlands India. Copies of this catalogue may be had on application to the Messrs Kolff.

GENERAL Briere de L'Isle is shortly, according to the *Avenir du Tonkin*, to be promoted to the rank of General of Division. The news of their chief's promotion has been received with the greatest satisfaction by the military and civil French population of Tonquin.

The **S. S. San Pablo**, with mails &c., from San Francisco to December 19th, arrived at Yokohama on the 5th inst., and will sail for this port to-morrow. No further information regarding the *San Pablo* has been received by the Agent than that contained in the above announcement. It is supposed by the agent that the steamer had not returned to San Francisco after all. It is now 48 days since the date on which she is reported to have left San Francisco.

Rumours have been flying about to-day to the effect that severe fighting had taken place between the French and Chinese forces on the Langson road, and that some two hundred French wounded had arrived at Hanoi. We have been unable to find any foundation for the report in any telegrams received in the Colony, but, as our correspondent stated in his last letter, an advance was expected shortly, it is possible that there is some foundation for the report.

We hear that Captain Thomsen, our worthy Harbour Master, will leave here for England by the last mail in March, in the steamer *Chuenra*, for a holiday. During his absence, Captain Ramsey (the Assistant Harbour Master) will, of course, act as Harbour Master.

It is also said that Mr. Justice Russell goes home on leave by the same mail. We have not yet heard who will act as Puisne Judge during Mr. Russell's absence.

There is still engaged in levying their new year exactions upon the householders on the upper levels, and people are at a loss to discover why the Police are so far at sea in preventing the persistent success of the raiders. That the heavily-boated Sikh soldier ever get a chance of catching the light-fingered and nimble-footed thief, is intelligible enough; for you can hear the tread of the gallant Panjabee half a mile off. But the Police force comprises other elements than that from the Panjab; and the small success of the force in this matter is becoming a little noteworthy. Feeble sentences passed by the Magistrates on known bad characters, however impolitic, ought not to prevent the Police from capturing native burglars.

On the 22nd January last the Central Prison at Saigon was completely destroyed by fire, nothing being left of it but a portion of the central tower. The fire was discovered about 8.20 p.m. in that part of the building which borders the Cape St. James' road, and it was not long before the fire extended to the rest of the edifice.

The inhabitants of the city, the natives from the men-of-war, Chinese and Europeans, all displayed the greatest eagerness to render assistance in the emergency, but the want of more pumps and ladders, coupled with the small supply of water, rendered it impossible to successfully withstand the spread of the terrible conflagration.

The saving of the prisoners was effected with great presence of mind and coolness by the Director and guards of the prison. There was not a single casualty to report.

The loss is estimated at \$80,000. The origin of the fire is not yet known for certain, but it is believed to have been caused by some convicts who were shortly to be sent to Cayenne.

It is so seldom that lovers of art have the opportunity of seeing high-class water-colours in this part of the world that we draw attention to a small collection now on view in Messrs Lane, Crawford & Co.'s premises. The pictures are the work of artists of good standing at home, and are well worth a visit.

MAJOR-GENERAL William Gordon Cameron, O.B., is announced as the successor of Lieut-General N. J. Sargent, O.B., in the command of H. B. M.'s land forces in China and the Straits Settlements. Major-General Cameron was born on the 16th October, 1827, and is now, therefore, fifty-seven years of age. He commenced his military career in May, 1844, when he joined the famous 'Black Watch' as an ensign. Three years later he was transferred to the Grenadier Guards, and while serving with them, he was appointed lieutenant. In July, 1853, he obtained a captaincy in the Guards, and remained in them until the 20th March, 1857, when he was removed to the 49th foot, now called the 'Berkshire Regiment.'

He was gazetted a brevet Major on the 24th April, 1855, and received his full Majorcy on the 23rd October, 1857, when he joined the 4th foot, or 'Lancaster Regiment.' While in this regiment he was promoted to be a Lieut. Colonel on April 1st, 1873. He was created a Major-General on the 26th June, 1873, and, in October of the same year, he was appointed Brigadier-General at Aldershot. From the 7th August until the 31st October '55, he was Major in the British German Legion, and from 15th Nov. of the same year until the 31st Nov. of the following year, he was Lieut. Colonel of the same body; and in 1875, he commanded the Infantry Brigade at Gibraltar.

Lieut. General Sargent retired from his command in the ordinary routine in March next, and, we believe, he and his family will take their departure for home, about the end of that month, in the P. & O. steamer *Chitau*. During his stay here he has made himself extremely popular with all classes, and his acts have repeatedly shown that he has tried his utmost to further the best interests of the colony. He has been equally popular with the garrison, the efficiency of which as regards discipline and drill is undoubtedly admirable. The departure of Mrs. Sargent and her daughters will be greatly regretted by the foreign community generally. Their sociableness and affability have won for them golden opinions from all with whom they have come in contact.

It is distressing to learn that, when the rescue of General Gordon was apparently within 'measurable distance,' news was received that Khartoum had been captured and that General Gordon was believed to be a prisoner in the hands of the Mahdi. At the time this intelligence reached Lord Wolsley, the commander of the advanced force of the British expedition must have been expecting daily to have the pleasure of taking General Gordon by the hand. The British troops had reached the banks of the Nile, one hundred miles below Khartoum, after their march across the desert, and on the 24th of last month Colonel Wilson, the head of the Intelligence Department, is stated to have left for Khartoum. It was assumed that Colonel Wilson started for Khartoum from Metamneh, which, according to the previous day's telegrams, had been captured, but later advice informed us that Metamneh was still held by the rebels. If Colonel Wilson did leave for Khartoum there will be some doubt as to his fate, especially if he succeeded in reaching the place.

The news is doubly serious because it not only indicates that General Gordon is a prisoner, or has been killed, but it also affords grounds for assuming that the difficulties in the way of the expedition have been very considerably increased. Khartoum will now have to be captured by the British troops, who are not properly equipped for laying siege to any important stronghold. To take any fortified position by storm, Lord Wolsley's troops would have to abandon, in some measure, the square formation, which is so effective in resisting the attacks of overwhelming hordes of savages, and in Khartoum the Mahdi has now probably massed at least fifteen thousand of his followers, ready to rush upon any force which may attempt the capture of the place.

Even at Metamneh the advanced columns of the British seem to have found it advisable, or necessary, to wait for reinforcements. One noteworthy feature of this new position is that there can no longer be an Egyptian garrison to rescue at Khartoum, as well as a British General. Most of the Egyptian troops there, however, showed themselves to be such ardent cowards, that they hardly deserved to be rescued, at any rate by a costly British expedition. It is strange that treachery should have led to the fall of the place at the eleventh hour, when the garrison must have well known that the raising of the siege had become only a question of days. Only widespread treachery is likely to have had such disastrous results. It is very likely that the Mahdi will now remove General Gordon, if he be a prisoner, from place to place in the Sudan, and thus lead the British troops a pretty dance after him. As there is now no garrison to rescue, possibly negotiations for the release of General Gordon may be the best means for putting an end to the costly work of the expedition.

There has been some discussion here as to whether or not the steamers of the Messageries Maritime Company should be regarded as 'public vessels' and treated on the same footing as the French men-of-war during the present trouble. The following extract from Mr. Ferguson's *Manual of International Law*, now being published, deals with this subject:—

Mail boats (Paquebots-poste), being vessels belonging to Navigation Companies which possess an organized service, sanctioned by their Government for the regular conveyance of the mails of the Government, and of public vessels. This privilege is granted to enable them to keep up the regular mail-service which they have contracted to keep up under the direct control of their respective States. These immunities have regard to exemption from arrest or detention of the vessel and to other facilities granted, especially with regard to fiscal matters, by treaties or postal conventions. In all other respects mail-boats have no more privileges than any other private or merchant vessel, to which class they belong unless it be expressly stipulated otherwise by treaty.

The *Shanghai Courier* hears that a foreign bank has been established in Peking, the chief promoters being Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Co., who have received the support of the Chinese Government.

A small motor has just been brought out, capable of being employed in propelling bicycles, &c., if the rider does not mind the agent employed—gasoline. The power is produced by minute explosions of this substance, something after the manner in a gas-engine.

The *Singapore Free Press* learns that the first prize in the Manila Lottery for December has fallen to Mr. W. Shoppen, a travelling agent for a London firm. He bought four tickets in Japan when he was travelling there, and one of them, No. 17,764, is the winner of the first prize of \$50,000. He is now travelling in Java.

As the steamer *Stator* was going to the Tanjong Pagar Wharf at Singapore, about 1 p.m. on the 19th ult., she ran down a longkang laden with coal just about opposite the New Company's Wharf. The men saved themselves by swimming to the wharf. The Master Attendant, upon being informed of the case, sent divers and the receiving-cargo boat *Brani* to raise the coal and remove the longkang from the channel. *Free Press.*

News reaches us from the north that Mr. Kinder, formerly of the Kaiping mines, has been appointed chief engineer of a railway to be constructed between Peking and Sihon—a mining centre 60 miles west of the capital. The construction of this line, as an introduction of railways into China, we understand, is not approved by Mr. Kinder, as it is one of his pet schemes. The plant for the line has already gone north, at least so our correspondent says. *Shanghai Courier.*

Another new explosive. This time its component parts are derived from common coal-tar. The product is stated to be a powerful and safe explosive for mining purposes, or even firearms. It possesses the same density as gunpowder, and is very cheaply manufactured. It is very easily ignited, and its composition being sulphate, chloride of potash, and a solid hydrocarbon, such as pitch or asphaltum. The solid ingredients are powdered, and the mass is then treated with a liquid hydrocarbon, such as benzene or gasoline.

H. E. SHAN-CHING, Tartar Generalissimo of the Banner and Great Corps in Chihli, has been ordered by Imperial Decree to place some 16,000 men at strategic points, commencing from Pak-kiao, near Tungchow, to the boundary line of the prefecture of Tientsin. From this last point to the sea coast it is presumed that Chang-fang has received orders to see to their proper defence. The Arsenal has turned out 20 large calibre home-made machine guns, four of which have been sent to Tartar General Shan Ching's corps at Tungchow, and the rest to Shan Hai Kuan. *Courier.*

We (Singapore *Free Press*) hear there is no truth in the rumour that there are further disturbances in Brunei. The gunboat *Edouard* has gone there, in accordance, we believe, with a request of Governor Treacher, but it was only a precautionary measure, and there is no actual disturbance going on, and it is likely that none may happen. The *Courier* only went there for firing practice, and returned in a few hours, and did not leave for Borneo, as our contemporary stated. The *Edouard* would not have been sent, as she was homebound, but no other ship could be spared from the station, and when she arrived she was ordered to return from the Admiral to go to Borneo.

An important piece of news appears in the *Shin Pao* from Peking. 'Tang Chung, ex-Governor of Yunnan, and Hui Yen-hui, ex-Governor of Kuangsi, have both been sentenced to decapitation after the autumn assizes for having permitted the loss of the *Shin Pao* from Peking. Tang Chung, ex-Governor of Yunnan, who is called, is a man of about forty-eight years old. He is entrusted, under the orders of the Tong-doo of Bao-ninh, with the administration of the provinces of Lang-son and of Cao-bang, of which the local governor is only of the rank of Quun-bo. The 'Tuan-pha' came originally from Hanoi, where he had seen European before he returned the last time to Lang-son, of which he has twice been Governor.

He asked me, at the beginning of our conversation, if I intended to continue my journey or to return to Hanoi. I told him that I purpose going as far as the frontier of China, only a few hours travel from Lang-son. He offered few objections to this little trip, but was frightened at the idea. I afterwards expressed my proceeding to Cao-bang. 'The route is most dangerous,' he said, 'there are brigands and tigers to be feared; the road is most difficult to traverse either on foot or on horseback. If you should meet with any accident the Court of

TONGKING.

FROM HANOI TO THE FRONTIER OF KWANG-SI.

LANG-SON.

The citadel of Langson forms a square of nearly 400 metres to the side. It has neither most nor bastions. The outer walls, three metres in height, are built of brick and are surmounted by a parapet pierced with loopholes and crowned with a palisade of bamboo. The east wall forms one side of a street inhabited by merchants and mountaineers and Annamite soldiers. The northern wall faces a public market, where are also found a number of dwelling houses. At the south-east corner a hill rises to about forty or fifty metres in height, flanked by a pagoda prettily situated and commanding the citadel. It is there that the mandarins meet to celebrate the public sacrifices. The west gate is blocked up with a pile of stones and earth, completely filling up the roadway.

The citadel is inhabited by the Governor, a (Tuan-pha) a Quun-bo, a Quun-an, and a Laah-binh, besides two other officers (Bambien) charged with maintaining the relations with the Chinese military authorities, represented by the chief of a detachment of Imperial troops quartered at Ki-lan, a village about twenty minutes' journey from the citadel, from which it is separated by the river Song-Ki-kung. This place is situated upon a plain which forms a large basin in the middle of the surrounding mountains, and which is covered with rice fields and villages similar to those of the delta. The crust of the encircling mountains are easy of access and from their summits every detail of the interior of the citadel can be distinctly seen. The latter could never resist for a single hour the fire of good artillery, which could operate from a distance 500 metres, at the same time commanding the village of Ki-lan, two kilometres distant and which is the central position of the Chinese regulars who are charged with the defence of Lang-son against the rebels.

In front of the South gate are two large grottoes in the rock, in the interior of which are sculptured round the sides numbers of religious statues. The entrance to one of these grottoes, which is in the side of the hill, is twenty metres underground. One obtains an entrance to the cave by means of steps which are practicable to the native-people, which are not shod. The inhabitants of the grottoes are a priest, or bonze, and a number of bats.

Lang-son and its environs is healthy; the country is rich in rice, cotton, and above all in unrefined oil, a product which merits particular attention. The population is very hospitable, but the price of Chinese is already noticeable. The dress of the natives is no longer similar to that worn in the provinces of the basin of the Red River, it is a mixture of Chinese and Tongkinese. In all the villages there are a great number of half-breeds, the Chinese merchants, with very few exceptions, having adopted native wives. Many of these traders ordinarily live at Hanoi, only coming to Lang-son once or twice a year to obtain from their wives an account of the funds left in their hands, and which they should employ for their joint benefit in the trade in opium from Kwang-si, oil, medicines, &c. There is a sensible difference between the native race here and that of the delta. The features of these mountaineers are more marked, the complexion is darker, and their muscular strength is much greater, but their character is equally gentle and they do not appear to be much more warlike in temperament.

There are silver mines near Lang-son, but they are not worked, if I am to believe those who informed me. I used every endeavour, at different times, during the eight days which I spent in the citadel to get conducted over these argentiferous lands but found it impossible to induce the mandarins to grant my desire. The merchants themselves gave me little assistance in my enquiries on this subject, and that with great unwillingness. I was obliged to be content with the most meagre information upon this interesting question, but it is very certain that if these mines were not worked by the Chinese, to whom the Annamites could not refuse the entry, I should not have encountered the same difficulties in obtaining access to them.

As soon as I had deposited my baggage in the house of the Quun-an I went to pay a visit to the Governor of Lang-son, who received me, I must say, most affably. At first sight the expression of this mandarin appeared to me hard and disagreeable but this impression soon vanished. The Governor, or Tuan-pha, as he is called, is a man of about forty-eight years old. He is entrusted, under the orders of the Tong-doo of Bao-ninh, with the administration of the provinces of Lang-son and of Cao-bang, of which the local governor is only of the rank of Quun-bo. The 'Tuan-pha' came originally from Hanoi, where he had seen European before he returned the last time to Lang-son, of which he has twice been Governor.

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Had would hold me responsible; the more so as your passport states that Lang-son is to be the end of your journey.' I answered him that if he liked I would take all responsibility upon myself by informing him in writing of my wish to extend my journey beyond the range of the passport, and without escort, containing myself simply with a guide. Even in this case, he said, he could not let me set out without an escort; such was the rule. He assured me, however, that he would see the Chinese chief whose soldiers guarded the route, and request him to give orders to insure my safety.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A PROPOSAL.

Hongkong, 6th Feb. 1885.

Sir,—As an important point in the education of the youth of this Colony remains overlooked, I hope I may be allowed the medium of your valuable columns to draw attention to it. Though gratified to observe the impulse which is being given to the cause of education here, yet I regret to find that it is not directed in a way from which lasting benefits might be reaped. Considering the tender age at which school-boys are employed here, generally at sixteen or seventeen, and the elementary instruction imparted to them, it can hardly be doubted that, when their short school-days are over, much remains to be done in order to complete their education. Under the present system, however, they are at last—left if they are perfectly educated. Then in the most favourable time to cultivate their developing minds, and though many are inclined to do so at leisure, the inadequate means at their disposal present insurmountable obstacles. No literary encouragement is given, and it is not strange, therefore, that many an hour in life's spring-time, is lost in dissipation. That some adequate means of self-culture should be afforded them is apparently of the utmost importance.

One of the principal features of a great modern city is indeed the facility with which these means are procurable in a library or Athenaeum which, while enabling the citizen with architectural elegance, tend much also to embellish and adorn the public square, and become a source of pride to the community. Though an emporium, Hongkong is in this respect quite an insignificant place, for it does not afford similar educational advantages. It may be said that the City Hall Library answers the purpose, but only those who have not been to the place can say that. There are there—almost all being incomplete, second-hand volumes which might have been interesting to an old gentleman of the seventeenth century, but which are not so to a young scholar in this enlightened age. Nor is there any room for the accumulation of modern literature, which undoubtedly exercises considerable influence on education—respectable journals. Only stale local newspapers are laid on the table, the current ones being reserved by the attendant for his exclusive use. Though provided with a good library, the student of the day finds it difficult to find books on his own days at the time when young clerks can possibly have some leisure, and it is wholly so on Sundays. The few visitors, mainly bookworms and little schoolboys, are almost daily disappointed at not finding anything to read to them.

So far this institution has not received much attention. Nor is it strange that the Government has yet done little for it, considering that but a few years ago the Colony had not as at present so many foreign youths pursuing their studies. As to the other advantages derivable from a high-class education, it would indeed be a boon if the Government, so praiseworthy in its efforts about educational matters, should provide this institution with a complete collection of the ancient and modern classics, so good works of reference, the local papers, and a few London ones, such as the *Times*, the *Illustrated London News*, and the *Graphic*. Financial reasons might perhaps discountenance this useful project, but if the material improvement and embellishment of the colony are zealously and liberally looked after, much more should be done for the minds of its youthful inhabitants. Such a library would undoubtedly benefit and stimulate the studious youths more than the scholarships do.

There are not in the colony too many scholarships, and the competition would be harder, and the success sweeter, if the honours were less profuse. As to the Home Scholarship, it is to be wondered if a rudimentary schoolboy, unless he be a prodigy, can, in the allotted time of only four years, become a competent lawyer, physician, or civil engineer. Regarding the many other scholarships, neither Victoria nor St. Joseph's College is yet in a position to produce candidates worthy of such valuable gifts. The training is simply elementary, and even the boys do not seem to be efficient. About a year ago it was suggested that a Central School be established, the meaning of the word 'Commerce.' To the astonishment of all present, he did not know it, and when told to guess, said after much hesitation that 'it is the bench where judges sit upon.' And yet he was then in the highest class. Would it not be better if money thus squandered in scholarships were spent in organising a public library, benefiting pupils generally instead of individually? By so doing not only the actual but also the former pupils of these institutions would improve. Victoria and St. Joseph's Colleges could not do better than ask from the donors permission to lay aside a scholarship each to supply the proposed library with important future publications.

If this proposal should meet the approval of our kind promoters of education, the library would have to be under regulations and management different from those of the actual one, or the youths, principally those who are employed, would be unable to enjoy the library treasuries from it, and the present collection of books, which the new one would render unnecessary, might then be disposed of in the most fitting manner, viz.—the loans returned to the owners, and the donations generously and beneficially presented to the Naval, Military and Police Forces, the Temperance Hall, and the Sailors' Home, after reserving a few rare volumes for the new library, which might be happily called the Victoria Athenaeum.

The good which might thus be gathered would be beyond all calculation, and I conclude here thanking you for the insertion of this in your valuable columns. *BOOKWORM.*

SUPREME COURT.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION. (Before the Hon. J. Russell, Puisne Judge.) Friday, February 6.

HOI SAI YUONG AND OTHERS v. GROSSMANN & CO.—\$900.

GROSSMANN & CO. v. HOI SAI YUONG AND OTHERS.—\$107.50.—JUDGMENT.

His Lordship delivered the following judgment this morning:—The plaintiff claim on a contract entered into on the 8th of August last, in which the defendant contracted to supply 200,000 boxes of cartridges within two to three months from the date of the contract. It appears that the contract was reduced to writing on the

8th of August, and on the following day the plaintiff requested the defendant to insert the word 'Boxer' between Snider and cartridges, as that was the kind of goods bargained for. The defendant inserted the word as requested. He stated, however, that he told the broker that he was not sure whether these could be obtained. But on the 11th August, just two days afterwards, the defendant entered into another similar agreement in writing with another party for the supply of a very great quantity of the same description of goods. In dependency of the rule of law against admitting evidence to alter or vary a written contract, it seems to me that the sale of the cartridges was made without any condition, as they are the cheapest kind made, and the defendant anticipated no difficulty. On the 21st August the plaintiff was informed by the defendant that the contract would not be carried out. The plaintiff, however, according to the defendant's own account of it, insisted on the fulfilment of the agreement, and the defendant had up to the 8th of November to perform it. The price of cartridges of the kind wanted increased from the month of August, and we have the evidence of one of the parties that he bought the same kind at the end of September at \$2 per 100; also at \$2.05 per 100 at the beginning of October, and at \$2 at the end of December. The evidence of Mr. Alfred Jackson, who has special knowledge of the subject, is that the price of cartridges of the kind wanted increased from the month of August, and we have the evidence of one of the parties that he bought the same kind at the end of September at \$2 per 100; also at \$2.05 per 100 at the beginning of October, and at \$2 at the end of December. 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